REMARKS

The drawings objection by the Examiner are cured herein by the addition of the legend "(PRIOR ART)".

The previous claim objection to claim 33 is corrected in new claim 59.

The Examiner rejected claims 27-34, 38, 43-48, 52 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Wang.

Claims 35-37 and 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Wang in view of Suzuki.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Wang in view of Slabbaert.

At the outset it is noted that the Examiner indicated claims 39-41 as allowable if presented in independent form. This has been done in new independent claim 83 (corresponding to claim 39), new independent claim 84 (corresponding to previous claim 40, and dependent claim 85 (previous claim 41) depending on allowable claim 84.

New independent claim 53 distinguishes over Wang either alone or in combination with the other two secondary references for the following reasons. Claim 53 recites that the sensor is arranged in the developer station at an installation location remote from the toner extraction location, and wherein a current toner consumption value for the toner particles is corrected to adjust for a difference between the sensor installation location and the toner extraction location. The corrected toner consumption value of Applicants' new claim 53 is based on Applicants Substitute Specification disclosure at page 14, lines 5-11 (installation location B of the sensor compared to the remote extraction location C shown in Fig.

5). See also Applicants Substitute Specification page 14, lines 16-23, lines 24-28, lines 29-32, and page 15, lines 3-10 and lines 21-27.

Claim 53 further recites calculating from the toner concentration at the installation location of the sensor and from the corrected toner consumption value, a toner concentration at the toner extraction location and wherein the calculated toner concentration at the toner extraction location is input as a control variable, and wherein a regulator controls the actuator such that the calculated toner concentration at the toner extraction location approaches a desired value. Wang is nothing like this. Wang does not address the sensor location as remote from the extraction location. Wang also does not have the corrected current toner consumption value as recited to correct for a difference in sensor and extraction locations, nor does Wang calculate using the corrected toner consumption value a toner concentration at the toner extraction location. Wang does disclose a sensor but nowhere indicates calculation of the toner concentration at the toner extraction location. Therefore claim 53 readily distinguishes over Wang Fig. 4.

The secondary references do not satisfy the above noted deficiency in Wang and therefore cannot cure the deficiency of Wang.

Dependent claims 54-71 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to independent claim 53 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

Particular attention is drawn to dependent claim 70 reciting that the sensor location is remote from not only the extraction location but also the in-feed location. Wang simply does not indicate where his sensor is located, but only indicates that his sensor is sensing toner concentration. Also, dependent claim 71 distinguishes by reciting correction of the toner consumption value for the toner charge deviating from

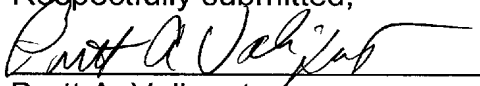
a desired value, since the charged state of the toner is dependent on the toner flow rate based on the toner consumption. Wang nowhere discusses this. This claim is based on Applicants substitute specification at page 17, lines 1-5.

Device claim 72 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 53. Dependent claims 73-82 are allowable at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 72 from which they depend.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,



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